

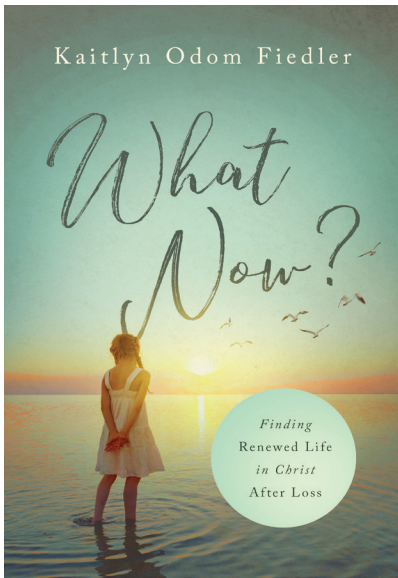


What Now? news release

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SURVIVOR SHARES STORY OF HOPE AFTER LOSING PARENTS AND SIBLINGS TO CAR CRASH FINDS HEALING IN HELPING KIDS IN TRAUMA



RELEASE DATE: April 4, 2023
TRADE HARDCOVER, Paperback, and ebook
HARDCOVER ISBN: 978-1-64960-585-6
PRICE: \$26.99
PAPERBACK ISBN: 978-1-64960-374-6
PRICE: \$16.99
PAGES: 148

For immediate release: Kaitlyn Odom Fiedler was just eight years old when she and her family, along with two foreign exchange students, were in a car crash that took the lives of her parents, four of her siblings, and one of the exchange students. Over twenty years after the crash, Fiedler shares her heartbreaking story in *What Now?: Finding a New Life in Christ After Loss* (Ambassador International, April 4, 2023, \$26.99/\$16.99) in hopes that the lessons she learned on her path to healing will help others going through their own trauma.

“I’ve learned how to survive and eventually thrive in life when everything feels just plain wrong because the people I love most in the world are not in it anymore,” writes Fiedler. “Loss happens in so many different ways, whether through death, divorce, or other life-altering circumstances. All loss is painful. In my case, the loss was sudden and tragic, and it turned my whole world upside-down.”

The car accident also led to the death of the driver of the other vehicle, who had lost control and swerved into oncoming traffic on I-26 in Columbia, South Carolina. As a result of the crash, barrier cables have been completed all across the state to prevent such a catastrophe from happening again.

After the car accident, Fiedler found herself waking up in a hospital bed with no sign of her parents or four of her five siblings. After healing from her own injuries, Fiedler and her teenage brother found a new life with their aunt and uncle, but the close-knit family, homeschooling family that they had loved was no longer a part of their lives. Fiedler found herself looking for hope in all the wrong places until the day that she realized where her hope should truly lie.

“There’s no method to prayer in grief,” writes Fiedler. “There’s no method to prayer at any time, really. It’s simply pouring out our hearts and our thoughts to God. When you’re hurting and want to talk to someone about how you feel, talk to God.”

As Fiedler has met many milestones—graduating from high school and college, getting married, having children—she has met her grief head-on with the help of a professional counselor, her faith, and her family and friends. And she has also found purpose through the grief program for children and teens at her church, where she helps them walk through their own trauma.

“If you’ve lost someone or have overcome anything hard, you know it’s a lifelong journey,” writes Fiedler. “Healing from grief is a marathon, not a sprint... You must commit to doing the work that you need to do and to love the people that He has given you to love. Healing doesn’t happen overnight. It happens slowly in small increments over a span of time.”

About the Author:

Kaitlyn Fiedler lives near Greenville, SC, with her husband and son. She is currently pursuing her M.A. in counseling from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. She actively volunteers with her church in a grief ministry to help kids process and heal after the loss of a loved one. She brings biblical inspiration to women on her blog, abeautifulbelonging.com. She is happiest when traveling and adventuring with family and friends.

To connect with the author or request a review copy of *What Now?*, please contact publicity director Susanna Maurer at media@emeraldhouse.com.

ABOUT THE PUBLISHER: Ambassador International was founded in 1980 in Belfast, Northern Ireland and expanded to Greenville, South Carolina in 1995. Ambassador International’s books and materials have been distributed in dozens of countries and are sold worldwide. For more information visit www.ambassador-international.com. You can also follow @AmbassadorIntl on Twitter or check out [Facebook.com/AmbassadorIntl](https://www.facebook.com/AmbassadorIntl).

Suggested Interview Questions for the Author:

1. Tell us about your childhood and family life.
2. Tell us about the accident you experienced.
3. How did you find peace in God as a child after the accident?
4. Did you ever question God?
5. Tell us how God has worked in your life most recently as an adult.
6. Tell us about your book – what led you to write it and what do you want people to know about it?
7. What would you tell someone who is experiencing loss/grief right now?
8. Tell us a quote from your books and why it is important to your story.
9. What tips/advice would you have for someone who is wanting to help a friend in their grief?
10. What would you say to a caretaker of a child who is experiencing loss?

Endorsements

In *What Now?: Finding Renewed Life in Christ After Loss*, Kaitlyn shares her pain, struggle, and personal wrestling with grief, love, and hope with courageous vulnerability. Although her story is her own, she invites us to find our own stories in it and, by doing so, we find hope outside of ourselves. She doesn't deny her trauma and pain, nor does she rush her healing or that of her readers. She creates space. Kaitlyn writes as if she is introducing us to her family, her home, and her hope. She has found Christ sustaining, patient, and present and introduces Him as one friend introduces another. Her value of children, their emotions, grief, and the need for ways to engage their trauma with or without words reminds us and challenges us to enter in and give space for all.

Lee Anne Cavin | Grace Church Campus Support Staff

Kaitlyn opens the door to her grief and invites you in. With a child's broken heart, she shares the tears she held back, shattered from the shock of suddenly losing her home and her family in a tragic accident. Equipped by her gentle parents' love for God, Kaitlyn gradually rises above the deep loneliness of despair. Asking the question, "What now?" she gently places your hand in the hand of Jesus and walks with you into the light of healing and hope. Hers is a story honestly told, laying her suffering open, welcoming you to share with her God's living and sufficient grace.

Georgia Tanner | Author of *Genesis: Small Stories of a Big God*

What Now?: Finding Renewed Life in Christ After Loss challenged me to see God's goodness amid insurmountable suffering. Kaitlyn's use of storytelling kept me engaged and inspired. With vulnerability and boldness, Kaitlyn shares her experience of unimaginable loss and brings hope to hurting people. This book will support people who have encountered trauma, suffering, or loss; and *What Now?* will guide the rest of us as we journey with them.

Peter Hyatt | Campus Minister, Clemson Baptist Collegiate Ministry

In her book *What Now?: Finding Renewed Life in Christ After Loss*, Kaitlyn Odom Fiedler did a phenomenal job of addressing an extremely painful topic and shared openly and honestly about her journey through her own grief. What she revealed depicts a process that can make or break a person. In Kaitlyn's journey through such horrific losses, she honored the commitment that she made to God at a young age. She also honored her parents and siblings by walking out what was imparted to her as she was growing up—a steadfast allegiance to God no matter the circumstances. As someone who has suffered deep loss of loved ones, Kaitlyn's book is a reminder of the goodness, presence, and faithfulness of God in our darkest and most painful moments. It is an honor to be one of the professors who gets to see her faithfulness to God lived out as a counselor-in-training as she is present with people who are in the midst of their own grief, pain, and loss. Kaitlyn genuinely is a wounded healer who can understand another's pain and also know that there is light that can come out of darkness.

Vickey Maclin, Psy.D. | Associate Professor at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary-Charlotte and Psychological Associate

In *What Now?: Finding Renewed Life in Christ After Loss*, Kaitlyn Odom Fiedler shares her story with raw vulnerability and I felt immediately connected to her. Throughout her story you will be inspired by her strength and amazed at the faithfulness of our great God! This book is a survival guide for anyone who needs a reminder that God is good and our strength in times of hardship.

Grace Valentine | Author of four best-selling books and host of Water Into Wine podcast

In his book, *The Wounded Healer*, Henri Nouwen wrote that "The great illusion of leadership is to think that man can be led out of the desert by someone who has never been there." Kaitlyn has been in the desert of great pain and loss. And she's emerged as a wounded healer—able to speak with both awareness and hope for those who find themselves in the throes of grief.

Christie Cole | Author of *Redeeming Sexuality* and *A Woman's Words*

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author bio

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KAITLYN ODOM FIEDLER

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